

Message Text

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41

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PC-15 IGA-02 MMS-03 SPC-03 A-01

AID-20 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /130 W

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R 060833Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7229

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 15692

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN, EAID, US, TH

SUBJECT: U.S. INITIATIVES TO MERGE ISVS AND UNV PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 193536

SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 5, WE INFORMED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (DTEC) OF THE US POSITION ON THE PROPOSED MERGER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES (ISVS) AND THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS (UNV) PROGRAMS. OFFICIALS AT NEITHER AGENCY SEEMED AWARE THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL WAS IN THE OFFING. WE CANNOT AT THIS JUNCTURE PREDICT WHETHER THE MFA WILL BUY OUR ARGUMENTS BECAUSE IT HAS NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO STUDY THE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR RAISED THE PROPOSED MERGER WITH THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE MFA UNDERSECRETARY OCTOBER 5. HE LEFT AN AIDE-MEMOIRE ON THE SUBJECT AT THE MFA.

2. AN EMBASSY OFFICER AND A PEACE CORPS OFFICIAL MET WITH APILAT OSTANONDA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF DTEC, ALSO OCTOBER 5. DTEC IS THE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING AND CLEARING RTG
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PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. SINCE APILAT

WAS UNAWARE OF A PROPOSAL TO MERGE THE ISVS WITH THE UNV PROGRAM, WE EXPLAINED THE US POSITION IN TERMS OF THE REFTEL. WE ALSO LEFT AN AIDE MEMOIRE.

3. APILAT RAISED FEW OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED MERGER. HE DESCRIBED THE UNV PROGRAM AS WEAK AND POORLY RUN. HE FELT THAT A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS HAD TO BE MADE IN THE UNV PROGRAM BEFORE ITS LEADERSHIP WAS DYNAMIC ENOUGH TO FUNCTION AS EFFICIENTLY AS THE ISVS. HE CITED A RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH THE UNV WHEN IT CALLED FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR A UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) PROJECT IN NARCOTICS REHABILITATION WITHOUT CLEARING THE PROJECT WITH THE RTG FIRST. HE CLAIMED THAT A SIMILAR INCIDENT OCCURRED WITH A PROJECT IN NEPAL.

4. APILAT SAID THAT THAILAND'S ATTITUDE TOWARD A MERGER WOULD BE DETERMINED IN LARGE PART BY THE EFFECT ON THAILAND'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO A MERGED INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. IN HIS MIND, THAILAND HAD NO SPECIAL TIES TO ONE PROGRAM OR THE OTHER.

5. FOR GENEVA: PRASERT MASOODI, OF THE RTG MISSION IN GENEVA, WILL ATTEND THE 15TH ISVS COUNCIL SESSION. SINCE APILAT HIMSELF WAS UNAWARE OF THE MERGER PROPOSALS, HE THOUGHT THAT PRASERT MIGHT BE SIMILARLY UNINFORMED. US MISSION GENEVA MAY WISH TO BRIEF PRASERT ON THE PROPOSED MERGER.

MASTERS

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